

HERITAGE GARDEN RESOURCES

Technical Paper No. 13



King County

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Introduction

Gardens are often significant cultural resources from archaeological, historical and contemporary cultural perspectives. Native Americans are known to have maintained the floral and faunal productivity of the “prairies” of the region for centuries. Commercial agriculture is believed to have been introduced in this region by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company at Ft. Nisqually around 1833. By the time of the arrival of the first Euro-American settlers in King County in 1851, Native American groups were cultivating the Hudson's Bay potato. Gardening was a major pioneer activity, and many new immigrants to the area had to cultivate vegetable gardens almost immediately upon arrival in order to survive. Many varieties of plant materials were introduced by pioneers who brought seeds and seedlings overland. Many other plant materials were brought to the area aboard ship. Pioneer gardening was undertaken not only for subsistence, but also for aesthetic purposes.

Ethnic groups, including Chinese, Japanese, and Italians (among many other immigrant groups) were known to have maintained gardens, some of which retained traditional design elements, and archaeological traces of terraced gardens are known from some historic sites in the interior of the Pacific Northwest. Botanical resources continue to be of great significance to the First Peoples of the region. Heritage gardens are today a prominent means of cultural exchange and tourism, a resource for the maintenance of living tradition and an interest of many historical organizations and property owners. Some of King County's most recent immigrant groups are actively pursuing agriculture and gardening as a livelihood.

There are a number of educational resources associated with gardens and horticultural resources, and heritage grant programs can sometimes provide resources for eligible organizations to preserve and interpret gardens. For information, contact the King County Historic Preservation Program at the address given above.

There are many commercial sources of heritage seeds and bulbs appropriate for historic gardens. These sources cannot be listed here, but area horticultural organizations and agencies, including those listed in the resources sections given below, may be able to provide information about them.

There are many other resource groups which are not listed here, including garden clubs and horticultural societies. Some of them can be contacted through the Center for Urban Horticulture of the University of Washington and other groups listed below.

The following information will be updated and expanded as new data becomes available. To contribute information, contact the King County Historic Preservation Program at the above address.

Landmark Gardens

There are a number of gardens in the King County area that have been designated as landmarks. There are other properties that include gardens as part of an ensemble of landmarked resources. Some of the properties are significant for their ethnic heritage associations, others for their association with community growth and identity and a few as works of important landscape architects. Others are associated properties listed on historic site inventories. Listed below are some of the more significant garden-related landmark properties (National Register of Historic Places=NR, Seattle Landmark Register=SLR, King County Landmark Register=KCLR). Some gardens (marked *) are open to the public on a regular basis or by appointment. Others are landmarked, but are private, or access is limited.

- C.H. Black House & Gardens, Seattle (SLR)
- E.B. Dunn Historic Garden, Seattle (NR)*
- Eddy House and Grounds, Medina (NR)
- Carl English Gardens, Hiram Chittenden Locks, Seattle (NR)*
- Hollywood Farm (Ste. Michelle Winery), Woodinville (KCLR)*
- Kubota Gardens, Southeast Seattle (SLR)*
- Mukai Garden, Vashon Island (KCLR)
- Parsons Memorial Garden, Queen Anne, Seattle (SLR)*
- Smith-Baldwin House, Vashon (KCLR)
- Volunteer Park Conservatory, Seattle (NR, SLR)*

Information on access to some of the gardens may be provided by organizations and agencies listed in the resources sections below. For information on landmarks and historic sites, contact the:

- King County Historic Preservation Program, 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 700, Seattle WA 98104, 206-477-4528, <http://www.kingcounty.gov/landmarks>.
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (NR), 1063 S. Capitol Way, P.O. Box 48343, Olympia, WA 98504-8343 or 360-586-3065, <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/>.
- Seattle Historic Preservation Program (SHPP), at 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1700, P.O. Box 94649, Seattle, WA 98104 or 206-684-0464, <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/>.

Local Resource Organizations

The American Society of Landscape Architects, Washington Chapter, 603 Stewart Street, Suite 610, Seattle WA 98101-1500 or 206-443-9484 circulates an informative newsletter.

<http://www.wasla.org/>.

The Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle WA 98105 or 206-543-8616, holds the *Miller Library*, a regional resource for gardeners. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/visit/cuh.php>.

The E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust at P.O. Box 77126, Seattle, WA 98177 or 206-362-0933 is dedicated to conserving historically and horticulturally significant gardens in the region. The Trust provides public access by appointment to the Dunn Gardens. <http://www.dunngardens.org/>.

The Erna Gunther Ethnobotanical Garden, Burke Memorial Museum, Box 353010, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3010 or 206-543-5590. There are also other specialty gardens on the U.W. campus. http://www.burkemuseum.org/exhibits/browse/ethnobotanical_garden.

The Friends of the Conservatory, 1402 East Galer Street, Seattle, WA 98112 or 206-322-4112, works with the Seattle Parks Department to preserve and provide access to the collections in this National Register property. <http://www.volunteerparkconservatory.org/>.

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, WA 98109, 206-324-0858 works with the Seattle Parks Department and community groups to preserve and enhance the City's Olmsted parks legacy. The Friends can direct researchers to the national Olmsted organization and archival resources. <http://www.seattle.gov/friendsofolmstedparks/>.

The Japanese Garden Society exists to support the Seattle Japanese Garden. Please contact Steve Garber, 233 Harvard Avenue E, Seattle, WA 98102-1670, or call 206-325-0591 for information.

WSU Extension King County, 1000 Oaksdale Avenue SW, Suite 140, Renton, WA 98057-5212 or 206-205-3100, is a good source of technical information. <http://county.wsu.edu/king/Pages/default.aspx>.

Kubota Garden Foundation, P.O. Box 18946, Seattle, WA 98118-0946, 206-725-5060 supports the work of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation in the preservation and public enjoyment of this landmark garden, which is a blend of traditional and contemporary techniques and materials.

The Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington, 348 Gould Hall Box 355734, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-5734 or 206-543-9240, is a source of technical expertise. <http://larch.be.washington.edu/>.

The Seattle Chinese Garden Society (Xi Hua Yuan) 6000 16th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98106 or 206-934-5219 is creating a five acre traditional Chinese garden on the campus of the South Seattle Community College. <http://www.seattlechinesegarden.org/>.

The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation is the owner or operator of landmark and cultural gardens (<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/gardens.htm>) including: the Parsons Gardens (7th Ave W & W Highland Drive, 206-684-4081); Kubota Gardens (9817 55th Avenue South, 206-684-4075); the Japanese Garden at Washington Park Arboretum (1075 Lake

Washington Boulevard, 206-684-4725); and Volunteer Park Conservatory (1400 East Galer Street, 206-684-4743). For information on Seattle Parks Horticulture see <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Horticulture/default.htm>.

The Washington Park Arboretum (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/gardens/wpa.shtml>) at 206-543-8800 incorporates a Japanese Teahouse and Garden among its many resources. The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation at 206-684-4075 administers the garden, <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/>.

The Western Cascade Fruit Society, <http://wcfs.org/> is a resource for owners of historic properties.

State and National Resources

The *Archives of American Gardens* preserves important resources, including historic photos, for investigating visual data on public and private landscapes. The mailing address is P.O. Box 37012, Capital Gallery, Suite 3300, MRC 506, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012. For information, call 202-633-5840 or go to <http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/archives-american-gardens.html>.

The Association for Preservation Technology International, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703, 271-529-9039, <http://www.apti.org/>, is a source of technical information.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation, online at <http://tclf.org/>, is concerned with landscape preservation in the United States and has extensive information on prominent designers and their work, including modern landscape architects. Several Seattle-area landscapes are pictured and briefly described in a national database of significant landscapes.

The Garden Conservancy, Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516 is a national research organization with a newsletter. <http://gardenconservancy.org/about/contact.html>.

Heritage Resource Center at 211 West 21st Avenue, Olympia, WA 98501 or 360-586-0219 has presented workshops on historic landscaping.

National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office, Seattle Office, 909 First Avenue, 5th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104-1060 or 206-220-4133 may have information on historic landscapes and gardens.

The Old House Bookshop, 2 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930 publishes several titles on historic landscapes and gardens.

Old House Gardens, 536 Third Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or 734-995-1486 is a mail order source of rare flower bulbs from 1500s through the 1920s. <http://www.oldhousegardens.com/>.

Washington Museum Association, P.O. Box 5817, Factoria Station, Bellevue, WA 98006 is a membership organization open to arboretums, which are, by definition, museums. The WMA

has a valuable newsletter, conference, and member directory. A number of gardens and arboreta are listed in the directory.

Chelan County owns and manages the Ohme Gardens near Wenatchee, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gardens is located at 3327 Ohme Road, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 509-662-5785 and at <http://www.ohmegardens.com/index.html>.

Publications

Creating Period Gardens by Elizabeth Banks is available from the Preservation Press, http://isbndb.com/d/publisher/preservation_press.html.

The Washington Native Plant Society, 10517 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125, 206-527-3210 or <http://www.wnps.org/research/ethnobot.html>, has a link to *Ethnobotany: The Use of Plants by People*, a brochure provided by the Seattle Public Library in conjunction with the Washington Park Arboretum.

Ethnobotany of Western Washington: The Knowledge and Use of Indigenous Plants by Native Americans by Erna Gunther, UW Press, is a classic introduction to the field of Native American plant use.

Garden Touring in the Pacific Northwest: A Guide to Gardens and Specialty Nurseries in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia by Jan K. Whitner, 1993 Alaska Northwest Books.

The Golden Age of American Gardens by Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller, *The Garden Book: Designing, Creating, and Maintaining Your Garden* by John Brookes, *Herb Garden Design* by Faith Swanson and Virginia Rady, *Theme Gardens: Revised Edition* by Barbara Damrosch, and *The Natural Garden* by Ken Druse are published by Old House Bookshop (Old House Journal) 2 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930-9942.

Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, National Register Bulletin No. 30, National Park Service, 1989 (revised 1999), Linda McClellan et al. Online at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb30/>. Although this is oriented to nominating properties to the National Register, it contains a good deal of information that is useful for understanding and describing vernacular landscapes, including gardens.

Historic Landscapes and Gardens: Procedures for Restoration, by John Jay Stewart, as revised by Deanna J. Kerrigan in 1997, is a Technical Leaflet published by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The publication has a good section on resource organizations, including those for heirloom seeds and bulbs. For information, contact AASLH at 1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203-2991, 615-320-3203, or <http://www.aaslh.org/>.

How to Evaluate and Document Designed Historic Landscapes, National Register Bulletin No. 18, National Park Service, c. 1986, Timothy J. and Genevieve Keller. Online at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb18/>. Although this is oriented to nominating properties to the National Register, it contains a good deal of information that is useful for understanding and describing professionally designed landscapes, including gardens.

Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings: A Handbook for Reproducing and Creating Authentic Landscape Settings by Rudy J. Favretti and Joy Putman Favretti was published by the American Association for State and Local History. This is an older book with an East Coast focus. Second ed. 1995.

Northwest Garden News, P.O. Box 18313, Seattle, WA 98118, 206-725-2394, <http://www.northwestgardennews.com/index.html> is a newsletter with feature articles and resource information.

Paths and Walks for the Historic House by Carol Bolton Betts, (originally appeared as Technical Insert No. 34, Illinois Heritage Association). IHA technical inserts are \$3.00 each, minimum order is \$6.00. Mail the titles and numbers of your selections with a check or money order to: Illinois Heritage Association, 602 ½ E. Green St., Champaign, IL 61820, 217-359-5600.

Principles for Preserving Historic Plant Material, by Lauren Meier and Nora Mitchell, Preservation Technology Update, ***CRM Bulletin***, National Park Service, 1990, No. 6. In addition to good basic information on historic plant materials, this piece has a good section on resource groups and a useful bibliography. The electronic archival file is available at <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=13&number=06>.

Protecting Cultural Landscapes – Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes, Preservation Brief No. 36, National Park Service, 1994, by Charles A. Birnbaum. Online at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief36.htm>. This addresses landscapes as a whole, including gardens, and addresses planning and management for preservation.